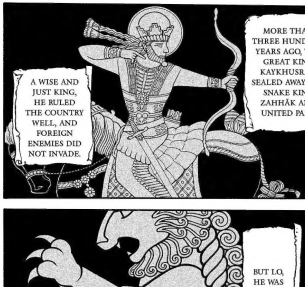
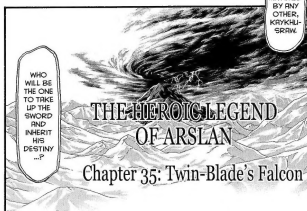
THAT IS MOUNT DEMA-VANT ...?
IT HAS MORE THAN POISONOUS SNAKES AND SCORPIONS. THEY SAY THAT GHOULS, MEN WHO ARE HALF-BEAST, AND THE LIKE PROWL ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN EVEN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
WHAT?!
MIASMA FROM THE BOG! POISONOUS GAS FROM BETWEEN THE ROCKS! LIGHT-NING STRIKES! BLIZZARDS! GALES OF WIND! FALLING ROCKS!
NO MAN WOULD APPROACH THAT MOUNTAIN WILLINGLY.

SO THAT IS THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LEGENDS...
I SEE...


A WISE AND JUST KING, HE RULED THE COUNTRY WELL, AND FOREIGN ENEMIES DID NOT INVADE.
MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE GREAT KING KAYKHUSRAW SEALED AWAY THE SNAKE KING ZAHHĀK AND UNITED PARS.

BUT LO, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS OWN SONS.

FIRST, THE BROTHERS FOUGHT EACH OTHER, AND THE YOUNGER BROTHER KILLED HIS ELDER BROTHER. THEN, THE YOUNGER BROTHER SET HIS SIGHTS ON HIS FATHER'S CROWN.
IN MĀZANDARĀN, THE LAND OF MORTAL COMBAT WHERE ONCE THE SNAKE KING HAD BEEN DEFEATED...
...FATHER AND SON CROSSED BLADES.....
IN THE DESOLATE PLAINS OF MĀZANDARĀN, WHEN THE ROYAL STANDARD OF KAYKHUSRAW FLUTTERED...
THE WICKED SNAKE KING ZAHHĀK'S FORCES WOULD TRY TO FLEE, MUCH LIKE A FLOCK OF SHEEP, FRIGHTENED BY SPRING THUNDER...
HIS TREASURED SWORD RUKHNABAD, FORGED OF A SHARD OF THE SUN, COULD EVEN SLICE IRON IN TWAIN.



THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 35: Twin-Blade's Falcon

EIGHT AMAJ WEST OF PESHAWAR CITADEL

ADHANA BRIDGE

*ABOUT 2 KM

TAKE THAT, DARYUN !!!

...AND ARSLAN !!

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH PESHAWAR SO EASILY WITH THIS BRIDGE OUT, WILL YOU?!

THIS WILL SLOW THEM DOWN ENOUGH UNTIL HIS HIGHNESS HILMES ARRIVES IN TWO OR THREE DAYS' TIME!!
THE CLOSEST PLACE ANYONE COULD ERECT A BRIDGE ACROSS THIS RAVINE IS THREE WHOLE FARMINGS AWAY.

*ABOUT 15 KM

YES, HE WAS.
WHAT OF THE BRIDGE GUARDS?! WERE'NT LORD BRAHMAN IN CHARGE OF IT THIS MONTH?
WHAT?! ADHANA BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED?!
FESHAWAR CITADEL

YES, SIR!
SET UP A FLOATING BRIDGE RIGHT AWAY.
IF IT'S GONE, THEN IT'S GONE.
FOR A DISTINGUISHED MARGRÄFIN WITH SO MUCH EXPERIENCE TO MAKE SUCH A BLUNDER...
LORD BRAHMAN HAS BEEN LOSING HIS EDGE LATELY. WHAT COULD IT MEAN?

LORD KISHWARD!

YOU'RE BACK.

HOW DID THE SCOUTING GO?

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS PROWLING THE WESTERN MOUNTAIN ROADS AFTER ALL.

THEY'RE ATTACKING TRAVELERS.

BLIGHTED SAVAGES!

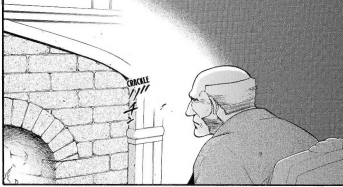
THOSE TRAVELERS ARE SAYING SOMETHING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

WHAT'S THAT?

THAT THE LUSITANIANS ARE HUNTING FOR HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN, THAT THEY DID BATTLE WITH HIM, AND SO ON...

!

CRACKLE


TOCKLE

HAVE YOU HEARD THE REPORTS?
EXCUSE ME, LORD BAHRAM.

JACKALS IN ARMOR ARE AFTER HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN'S LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS WEST OF US.
...YES.

...
...SO IT MAY BE.
...
WHAT?
LORD BAHMAN!
AH, YES...
THEN, LORD BAHMAN, WITH YOUR LEAVE, I WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
WE WILL GIVE HIS HIGHNESS SHELTER IN THIS CITADEL. DO I HAVE YOUR LEAVE?
I WILL SEND HALF OF THE TEN THOUSAND HORSEMEN UNDER MY COMMAND OUTSIDE OF THE CITADEL TO SEARCH FOR HIS HIGHNESS!

YES, SIR!
WE LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT!
QUICKLY, PREPARE THE MEN AND HORSES!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
MM... YES...
GUH...
HAS HIS HIGH-NESS BEEN FOUND ?!
WE HAVE AN URGENT REPORT !!
SIR!

?!
A SINDHURAN ARMY HAS CROSSED THE KAVERI RIVER AND INVADED OUR TERRITORY!
IT'S FROM THE EAST ...
NO, SIR. IT IS NOT WORD FROM THE WEST!
NOW, OF ALL TIMES ?!
HOW LARGE IS THEIR FORCE ?!
WE BELIEVE THE HORSEMEN AND FOOT SOLDIERS TOGETHER NUMBER AS MANY AS FIVE THOUSAND!

WERE THERE ANY WAR ELEPHANTS?
NONE, SIR!
ALL RIGHT. THEN THEY AREN'T SERIOUS.
CLANK
WHOOPS!
AYYAR.
BE A GOOD BOY AND LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER WHILE I'M GONE.
YES, FATHER!
HOLD DOWN THE FORT, NASRÂN!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP.
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
FIVE THOUSAND RIDERS ARE TO FOLLOW ME!!
WE'LL WIPE THEM OUT BEFORE HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN ARRIVES!!
おおっ!
SIR, YES, SIR!
THE REST OF YOU ARE TO STAY AND PROTECT THE CITADEL WITH LORD BAHMAN!!

R R M L B
SOMEONE MUST HAVE SLIPPED INFORMATION TO SINDHURA. I'M SURE OF IT.
THAT "PARS IS IN CHAOS" ...AND "NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO INVADE"?
EXACTLY.
IF THEY BROUGHT NONE OF THE WAR ELEPHANTS THEY'RE SO PROUD OF, THEN THIS IS LIKELY AN INVADING FORCE SENT TO TEST THE WATERS.
LORD KISHWARD!
IT'S LORD KISHWARD!
SINDHURA HAS COME TO ATTACK!
THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!
OH, WE KNOW!
WE'LL GET 'EM!

RRRMBL
RRRMBL
THOSE DAMN SINDHURAN BLACK DOGS!

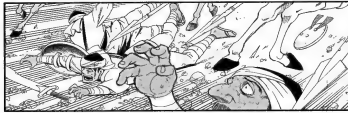
WE'LL TEACH THEM NEVER TO HAVE SUCH FOOLISH NOTIONS AGAIN!
RRRMBL
ドドド

FOR WHAT REASON DO YOU ENTER PARSIAN LANDS?!
I AM MIRZBAN KISH-WARD OF PARS!!
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

GASP
BUT FROM TODAY ON, YOU SHOULD NEVER FORGET!!
PERHAPS YOU KNEW NO BETTER YESTERDAY!!

IF YOU FACE PARS, YOU FACE TAHIR KISH-WARD !!!
おお
RAA
ATTAAACK !!!!!
おっ
AGH



AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME AT ME, YOU DOGS?!
IS THAT IT?!

SPEAK PARSIAN !!!

I'LL GRANT YOU YOUR DUEL. BUT FIRST, I HAVE ONE QUESTION.
AS LEADER OF THIS SINDURIN ARMY, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A ONE-ON-ONE BATTLE!
.....KH! MY NAME IS DASRA-VADA!

USE THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONTINENTAL HIGHWAY: PARSIAN!/
I DO NOT SPEAK SINDHU-RAN!!

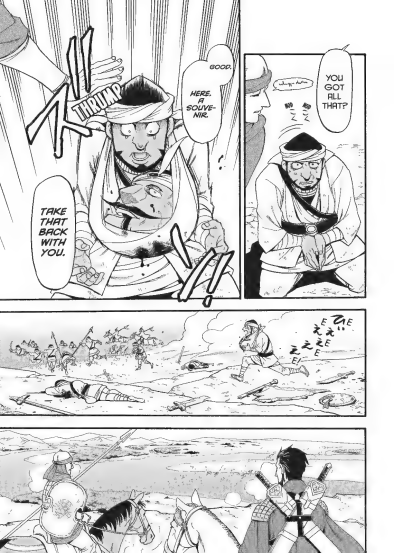
RAJEN-DRA...
...OR GACHEVI ?
WHICH PRINCE DO YOU CALL MASTER ?

HA! RAJENDRA IS A WHELP BORN FROM THE WOMB OF A SLAVE WOMAN!!
PRINCE GADHEVI IS THE TRUE HEIR!!
HIS HIGHNESS WILL BE THE NEXT KING TO SIT ON THE THRONE OF SINDHURA!
ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.
I SHOULD SEND YOUR SEVERED HEAD TO THAT DAMN GADHEVI THEN, EH?

BOLD WORDS !!
WHOOOM

KER-PLOP
FWEET!
FLAPP
FLAPP
HWUHP!
SWOOP

AGH!
AGH!
OUCH!
GYEH!
THUD
CAN ANY OF YOU SPEAK SINDHU-RAN?
I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE. IN EXCHANGE, GO BACK TO GADHEVI AND GIVE HIM THIS MESSAGE.
"NEVER THREATEN THE PARSIAN BORDER AGAIN.
"... OR YOU WILL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE CROWNED A KING."
EEEEH
EEEEEEE


YOU GOT ALL THAT?
GOOD.
HERE. A SOUVENIR.
TAKE THAT BACK WITH YOU.

FLUTTER
AZRAEL!
OUR CROWN PRINCE ARSLAN MAY BE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CITADEL.
I WANT YOU TO FIND HIM, AND IF HE NEEDS IT, PROTECT HIM.
FWOOSH!
GO!

HEY, NAR-SUS!
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THESE COMPANIONS OF YOURS?
I'M PRETTY SURE WE'VE BEEN WANDERING IN CIRCLES ON THE SAME PATH FOR DAYS ON END NOW!
YES, WELL, I'D LIKE TO AVOID ENGAGING WITH THE ENEMY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE SOUGHT BY PARSIAN SOLDIERS LED BY SILVER MASK, HODIR'S MEN...
... LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS, AND—
—THOSE FELLOW UP THEREWOULD BE MERCENARIES AFTER REWARD MONEY, I ASSUME.
YOU'RE SMART, RIGHT?
CAN'T YOU OUTTHINK SUCH A JUMBLED GROUP, NO TROUBLE?
I'M AFRAID THEY'RE TOO JUMBLED.
CA-CLOP
I BELIEVE THEY AREN'T WORKING TOGETHER, BUT ARE ALL COMPETING FOR THE HONOR OF DEFEATING US.
IF THEIR GROUPS WERE UNITED TO SOME EXTENT, THEN IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THEIR MOVEMENTS, BUT—
CA-CLOP
ALFARÎD! STOP!
SKRR
SKRR
WHY ARE WE STOPPING?!
BECAUSE ESCAPING FROM *HIM* IS NO SIMPLE MATTER.

IT'S THE MAN YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO FACE...
THE MAN WITH THE MASK WORTH ONE HUNDRED SILVER COINS.